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Case Summary Information:

Refno : 1449      Name : MONTEZ, ANASTACIO (NMN)  
Service : A      LossRank : E7      Idate : 5/24/69      Status : XX  
Ctry: VS      Province : GIA LAI-KONTUM  
OffscopeCase : N      PriorityCase : N      FateDetermined : NA

Narrative :

On 24 May 1969, SFC Montez was commanding a company of Civilian Irregular Defense Group Troops (CIDG) when his unit engaged a numerically superior enemy force in south Vietnam. The Americans tried to defend a small hill, and during this time SFC Montez was badly wounded. He was moved to a safer location and given medical attention. When the enemy pressed the attack, Montez was again moved with the withdrawing unit. He then stopped breathing and all attempts to revive him failed. The Americans were forced from their positions leaving behind the body of Montez. Enemy forces immediately occupied the area and the recovery party was driven from the location while attempting to remove Montez's body.

U.S. Government Information:

WartimeLivesight : N      SpecialReporting : N  
WartimeCrashGrave : N      WartimeMediaRpts : N  
DogtagRpts : N      PostwarMediaRpts : N  
UncorrelatedRpts : N      SignifUsglInfo : Y  
RemainsReportedPrior : N

Narrative :

In 1979, source (RP79-010) reported that in June 1971 the burial of an American advisor in the vicinity of Firebase 5 (This was area that Montez was lost). The corpse of the American advisor was buried with 30-40 Vietnamese members of the 1st Battalion, 42nd regiment, 23rd ARVN Division. The grave was about 800 meters from Firebase 5, in an unknown direction.

In 1986, source (HK-86-024) provided information concerning his alleged observation of a U.S. identification card and a pack containing U.S. remains which were recovered by a PAVN soldier (NFI regarding identity) in Tan Canh (ZB0222) Gia Lai-Kontum.

Joint Investigations Information:

NumberofInvestig : 1.00      JTFWitness : N  
FoundCrashsite : Y      SignifInfoJointInvest : N  
PotentialLocations : Y

Narrative :

27TH JFA, January 1994: A joint team travelled to Ro Coi Village, Sa Thay District, Kontum Province to investigate this case. The VNOSMP reported that no witnesses could be located because the area was uninhabited during the war and remains uninhabited today. Team surveyed the incident location and found no evidence of remains, personal effects, or a burial site.

It is not clear if the site visited is where the battle was fought or where Montez expired. If the area visited was the battle site, the remains were likely not in that vicinity. Records indicate that Montez was moved from the scene after being wounded.

Unilateral Information:

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UnilInfo : N      CtryProvidedFilm : NA  
CtryofInfo : NA      CtryProvidedRemains : NA  
ValueofInfo : NA      SignifInfoUniAction : N

Narrative :

Knowledgeability Information:

SeaCtryKnowLoss : N  
WhichCtryKnew : NA  
MoreInfo : N

KnowledgeNarr :

Enemy forces were heavily engaged against Montez's unit. Montez's unit was fighting in a withdrawal and was being pursued. A unit attempted to recover Montez's remains and was repulsed by heavy opposition. The enemy units involved would have discovered Montez and should know the disposition of remains.

Future Pursuit Information:

FurtherPursuitJust : Y      CtryForUnilatPursuit : VN  
PursueWho : Z      HowToUnilat : UA,UW  
CtryForJointPursuit : VN      TypeOfUnilatLeads : S  
HowToJointPursue : JW      KindOfUSPursuit : O

Narrative :

Unilateral: 1) VNOSMP locate any former members involved in the battle where Montez was lost. According to ☐Green Berets At War☐ by Shelby Stanton, the Special Forces Camps at Ben Het (where Montez was operating from) and Dak To were besieged by the 28th and 66th NVA Regiments between 05 May and 29 June 1969. Locate any witnesses from these units who may have been involved in a fight for Firebase 5 near the Ben Het Special Forces camp. Make these witnesses available for joint interview. 2) Attempt to locate any records for these units in the time frame of the attacks (05 May-29 June 1969) which may describe this incident.

The U.S. should try to locate former members of Montez's unit who were in this battle who may be able to provide a more accurate location where his remains were left. Interview these witnesses if discovered. Review Montez's unit After Action reports which may provide more details on this incident.

Future Pursuit Deferred Information:

WhyDeferPursuit : NA  
HowWhereOffScope : NA

Narrative :

No Future Pursuit Information:

WhyNoFurther : NA  
PrevAttemptRecov : NA

Narrative :

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INITIALCOORD : A-JOINT WITNESS (REMNS SEARCH)

RECOORD1 :

RECOORD2 :

RECOORD3 :

RECOORD4 :

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Case Summary Information:

Refno : 1456

Name : SPARKS, DONALD L

Service : A

LossRank : E3

Idate : 6/17/69

Status : XX

Ctry : VS

Province : QUANG NAM DA  
NANG

OffscopeCase : N

PriorityCase : Y

FateDetermined : N

Narrative :

While in the field on 17 June 1969 PFC Donald Sparks' unit, an element of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, came under small arms fire from bunkered forces in central Quang Tin Province (now southern Quang Nam - Da Nang Province), west of Tam Ky Town. When he ran forward, PFC Sparks was hit by enemy fire and fell to the ground. Two regular PAVN soldiers were seen near his fallen body.

U.S. Government Information:

WartimeLivesight : Y

SpecialReporting : N

WartimeCrashGrave : N

WartimeMediaRpts : N

DogtagRpts : N

PostwarMediaRpts : N

UncorrelatedRpts : N

SignifUsglInfo : Y

RemainsReportedPrior : N

Narrative :

U.S. POWs, who were held in the Military Region Five main POW camp, were told while the camp was being moved to a new location in the spring of 1970 that a U.S. POW named "Don" would soon join them; however, he never arrived. Don had been wounded in the foot and moved slowly.

Captured documents: In May 70, nearly a year after his capture, letters written by PFC Sparks were found on the body of a Viet Cong political officer. The letters, dated 11 April 1970, revealed that he was in captivity and that his wounds had healed.

Other intelligence relates to the evacuation and detention of PFC Sparks following his capture by elements of 8th Battalion, 31st Regiment, 2nd Division of the North Vietnamese Army.

A South Vietnamese soldier, who claimed to have been a prisoner of the communists at a camp just west of this area, claimed to have firsthand knowledge of a U.S. soldier named "Don" who died at that camp some time after his arrival there in February 1970. Some elements of this source's account are suspicious; DPMO analyst does not find source's claim to firsthand knowledge of the detention and death of "Don" to be credible.

Joint Investigations Information:

NumberofInvestig : 4.00

JTFWitness : Y

FoundCrashsite : Y

SignifInfoJointInvest : Y

PotentialLocations : Y

Narrative :

This case involves a known captive of communist forces whose fate is unknown. Information has been obtained concerning an individual who recuperated from wounds at a Viet Cong hospital in this area during this time frame. The information appears to relate to PFC Sparks; however, nothing concrete has been learned about him following his evacuation westward from the hospital in early 1970. Witnesses said they heard later that he had become sick and died, but whether this is true has not been determined. This case remains a priority "last known alive" discrepancy case.

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